



13th June 2013

British English edition

Issue Number 199

In this issue

Dancing Devils festival
Greek broadcaster closes
USA surveillance programme
Giant mosquitoes
Carbon dioxide and 'greening'
Central Europe floods
Mars spacecraft's tenth anniversary
Kabang welcomed home
Russia's smoking bans
Summit in shirt-sleeves
Volcanoes and ancient texts
New Tudor warship museum opens
First oarfish film
Bilderberg Group meeting
Rare 'living fossil' frog
Dam on the Blue Nile
World Environment Day
Peace prize awarded
Blackbirds and 'body clocks'
Glossary Crossword and Wordsearch Puzzle



Protesters in Taksim Square, in Istanbul, in Turkey

PROTESTS IN TURKEY

On 11th June police, using loudspeakers, told thousands of protesters to move out of Taksim Square, in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey. When the protesters refused the police used water cannons, tear gas and rubber bullets to force them to leave. **Bulldozers** then drove into the square to remove the **barricades** that had been set up by the demonstrators. When force is used to stop protests in this way it is often described as a 'crackdown'.

The protests began in Istanbul in May. A small group of peaceful demonstrators gathered in Gezi Park, which is next to Taksim Square. They were angry about government plans to get rid of the park and construct a large building in its place. Part of this new building would be a shopping centre. The protesters said Gezi Park was one of the few 'green' areas left in this part of Istanbul. It would be wrong, they argued, to destroy it. A

few hundred of them set up tents in the park to stop the building work starting.

On 31st May the police were ordered to remove the tents in Gezi Park. Bulldozers then began to knock down some of the park's trees. When people in the city heard the news many of them rushed to the park and Taksim Square. At first they wanted to support those who were trying to save Gezi Park. Yet, as the numbers grew, it soon turned into a big anti-government demonstration. Some of the nearby shops were damaged. The police were ordered to withdraw to the surrounding streets.

Over the next few days more and more people joined the protesters in Gezi Park and Taksim Square. Demonstrations also took place in over 70 other towns and cities including Izmir and Ankara, Turkey's capital. Many of the demonstrators began to demand that Recep Tayyip Erdoğan,

LEVEL UP!

Use

ONLINE EXTRA

Newsademic.com



TO JOIN VISIT
WWW.NEWSADEMIC.COM

the country's prime minister, step down, or resign.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881 – 1938) set up the modern-day Republic of Turkey in the 1920s. He was the country's first president and is a national hero. Even though most people in Turkey are Muslims Atatürk insisted that the country should be a secular state. This means politics and religion are kept separate. In a secular state the government should not support, or oppose, any type of religion. All citizens must be treated equally whatever their religious beliefs.

In later years Turkey had many political problems. It was not unusual for powerful army commanders to seize control of the government. However, these military leaders also believed that Turkey should be a secular state.

In his younger years Mr Erdoğan trained to be an Islamic [preacher](#). In 1994 he was elected as the mayor of Istanbul. In 2001 Mr Erdoğan set up a new political group called the Justice and Development Party (AKP). In an election in 2003 the AKP got the most seats in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, the Turkish parliament. Mr Erdoğan then became the country's prime minister.

In Turkey elections are held every four years. As well as the 2003 election the AKP won those held in 2007 and 2011. Each time the number of people who voted for the party increased. At the last election about 50% of those who took part voted for the AKP.

Over the last ten years Mr Erdoğan has been a very popular and successful leader. During this period of time Turkey's economy has been doing well. The number of people without jobs has been falling. Today Turkey is often described

as being at the 'crossroads' of Europe and Asia. The country has been a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) for many years and would like to join the European Union (EU).

However, the recent protests seem to show that many Turkish people are angry with their government. Some argue that even though 50% of the people who took part in the last election voted for the AKP the other 50% didn't. Many of these people now accuse Mr Erdoğan of becoming too [autocratic](#).

Over the last few years several senior military leaders have been put in prison. Some people believe that newspapers and television stations have become fearful of criticising the government. Several [journalists](#) have been imprisoned. The prime minister, his critics say, makes decisions without first discussing them with others.

Mr Erdoğan has recently announced several huge building projects. These include a new airport and a new bridge over the Bosphorus. This is a narrow sea channel that connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea. Yet those who oppose the prime minister claim these are not needed. They argue that these building projects will damage the environment.

Last month Mr Erdoğan declared that there would be a new alcohol law. Companies that make alcoholic drinks can no longer sponsor events. Shops will not be allowed to sell alcohol between ten o'clock at night and six o'clock in the morning. Those who disagree with the prime minister accuse him of wanting to introduce religious laws in a secular country.

Turkey has a president and a prime minister. However, unlike other countries such as the USA and

France, the president has few powers. The country's president is the head of state. He acts as a figure-head while the prime minister runs the country.

Turkey's constitution, or rules by which the country is governed, say that Mr Erdoğan cannot be elected as prime minister for a fourth time. In the recent past he said that he would like to change the constitution. His idea is for the country to become more like the USA. Then the president, and not the prime minister, would run the country. Mr Erdoğan has also declared that he wants to be Turkey's next president.



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, prime minister of Turkey

Soon after the police forced the demonstrators to leave Taksim Square on 11th June many of them moved to Gezi Park. The governor of Istanbul insisted that the crack-down would continue.

Mr Erdoğan has said that the demonstrations must stop. He insists that his government's plan to develop Gezi Park will go ahead. Mr Erdoğan accuses the demonstrators of being [extremists](#). Turkey, he explains, is a democracy. Therefore if people do not like what their government does they can vote for a different party at the next election. ■

DANCING DEVILS

The 'Dancing Devils' religious festival takes place every year in several small towns in Venezuela. The festival is held on Corpus Christi, which is a Roman Catholic religious holiday. This year the Corpus Christi holiday was on 30th May.

Corpus Christi is Latin for 'the body of Christ'. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The Corpus Christi holiday celebrates the transformation of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Before he was arrested, and later crucified, Jesus had a meal with his closest followers. At the meal he ate bread and wine and asked his followers to do the same in memory of him. Christians taking part in a Eucharist service (also called Holy Communion or Mass) take a sip of wine and eat some type of bread.



Dancing Devils

In the Venezuelan towns men and boys put on brightly coloured costumes on the day of Corpus Christi. They wear masks that look like different kinds of monsters or devils. The 'devils' slowly move towards the church on their hands and knees. When they get there a priest comes out and gives a blessing. The devils then jump up and begin to dance through the town.

Drummers line the streets. Holding candles women and girls dressed in red walk alongside the dancing devils. The priests also join in

carrying the Eucharist bread. In the evening there is a Mass, in which all those dressed as devils take part.

The Dancing Devils festival has recently become one of UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritages'. UNESCO is part of the United Nations. Its name stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

One of UNESCO's jobs is to select places around the world that it calls World Heritage Sites. UNESCO believes these places, which can be ancient or modern buildings, cities, monuments, mountains, lakes, and forests, should be preserved. This is because they are important parts of the world's cultural, social, and natural history.

As well as World Heritage Sites UNESCO also grants 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' status. 'Intangible' describes something that is not a physical object or something you cannot touch.

UNESCO says intangible heritages are important to people's cultures and traditions. So, even though you cannot visit them like world heritage sites, they must be preserved. Examples of things that have been given Intangible Cultural Heritage status by UNESCO include types of music, dance, cooking, singing, and storytelling.

Other cultural traditions on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list include the flamenco and tango. Both are dances. The flamenco is Spanish and the tango comes from Argentina.

Some think the Dancing Devils date back over 1,500 years to Spain. Then the Catholic Church is supposed to have used a similar dance as a way of persuading people to become Christians. The Dancing Devils began in Venezuela

NewsCAST

PHONE OPERATION — Doctors in Egypt have managed to complete an important operation in the dark. Power cuts have recently become more frequent in the country. However, hospitals have special electricity generators. These are switched on if the power fails. The doctors were performing an operation on a 60-year-old man in the evening. After they had begun the lights suddenly went out. Unfortunately the back up generator also broke down. Each of the doctors then switched on their mobile phones. Fortunately all the phones had recently been charged. The doctors then managed to successfully complete the operation by the light of their phones' screens. The local governor said he would investigate why the hospital's back up generator failed.

in 1742. At that time much of South America, including modern day Venezuela, was controlled by Spain. Slaves from Africa were not allowed to enter the churches. It's thought that some priests decided to use the ancient dance as a way of including slaves in their religious ceremonies. ■

TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS CLOSED IN GREECE

On 11th June a government official in Greece announced that the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT) would close within the next few hours. Many people in the country were surprised by the sudden announcement. ERT has broadcast television and radio programmes in Greece for over 70 years.

ERT is what's known as a public broadcaster. This means the money needed to run its operations are paid for by the Greek people and the government. The broadcaster's staff are government workers, or employees. Public broadcasters do not show any advertisements. Broadcasters that make their money from advertisements are known as commercial television or radio stations.



The Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation headquarters building, in Greece

To help pay for ERT Greeks have an extra €4.30 (£3.70) added to their monthly electricity bills. The government said that ERT was being closed to save money. It explained that ERT would probably reopen in the future. Yet when it did the broadcaster would have fewer workers. The 2,650 people who worked at ERT have all lost their jobs.

Greece is a member of the European Union (EU). Since 2001 it has also been a member of the eurozone, or one of the 17 countries that use the euro as its currency. Joining the eurozone was supposed to help Greece and improve its economy. It also made it easier for the government to borrow money.

Around five years ago Greece began to have serious financial problems. Its government had borrowed too much. The country was having difficulties both repaying some of what it had already borrowed as well as borrowing more.

Eventually, three organisations decided to work together to help Greece with its money problems. The European Union (EU), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to provide Greece with a bailout, or extra money. Together these three organisations have been nicknamed the 'troika'. This word means 'three' or a 'collection of three' in Slavic languages (used by several countries in Eastern Europe).

In return for the bailout the troika insisted that the Greek government reduce the amount it spends. Reducing, or cutting, government spending in this way is often called austerity measures.

These spending cuts in Greece are unpopular. They have caused many problems. Government workers are now paid much less. Many companies have been forced to close. Most people have little money to spend. Now around 25% of adults and over 55% of young people in the country do not have a job.

The troika says that, to save money, the government must reduce the number of its workers. It has threatened to withhold any future bailout money if the government does not do this. The Greek government passed a new law last April. It states that 15,000 government workers will lose their jobs by the end of 2014.

Government officials claim ERT was badly managed. They said it had many more workers than other commercial broadcasters. The commercial television stations also have more viewers. Not everybody believes the government closed ERT to save money. Some think it did so because programmes broadcast by ERT frequently criticised the government. ■

SECRET SURVEILLANCE OPERATION

Two national newspapers have recently published news reports about a secret American government operation called PRISM. The reports claim that PRISM collects large amounts of data, or information, from people's phone calls and internet use. Many people in the USA and other countries are now questioning if this data gathering is against the law.

In 2001 an Islamic militant group, called al-Qaeda, carried out a number of attacks in the USA. Nineteen of its members hijacked four passenger planes. Two were deliberately flown into tall buildings in New York City. A third hit the Pentagon, America's military headquarters near Washington DC, the USA's capital city. The fourth plane crashed in a field as some of the passengers tried to overpower the hijackers. Nowadays, because of the date on which they took place, these attacks are usually called '9/11'.

After 9/11 the government of the USA was worried that more attacks were being planned. It wanted to catch the people who organised them. To do this the government set up a number of organisations. Their job is to secretly collect and record communications, such as telephone calls, emails and web chats, from other countries. One of these organisations is called the National Security Agency (NSA).

It's thought that the NSA is unable to listen to or read all of the telephone calls and messages it records. This is because there are too many of them. Instead its computers search for patterns. For example, the computers may discover that a mobile phone is being used to frequently call

people in countries where al-Qaeda is known to operate. Government agents may then be sent to spy on the person who has been making these telephone calls. This type of spying is known as surveillance.



Seal of the NSA

The two newspapers are *The Washington Post*, from the USA, and *The Guardian*, from the UK. The newspapers say that an American called Edward Snowden gave them the information about PRISM. A company that worked with the NSA employed Mr Snowden. He says that he was unhappy about what the NSA was doing. He believes that it is wrong for the government of the USA to spy on American people.

People who take the risk of making secret documents public are often described as 'leakers' or 'whistleblowers'. Mr Snowden worked in Hawaii. Before 'leaking' the PRISM documents to the two newspapers he flew to Hong Kong, a city in China. Mr Snowden gave the newspapers permission to say that he was the whistleblower. He says he expects to be arrested for what he has done.

The first newspaper report mentioned a secret court in the USA. It said that this court had ordered an American telephone company, called Verizon, to pass data to the NSA about millions of telephone calls. A few days later the two newspapers

reported that PRISM gave the NSA access to all the information collected by large American internet companies. These, the newspaper reports say, include Google, Apple, Microsoft, Yahoo, and Facebook. However, the bosses of these companies denied that they have given the NSA permission to do this.

Barack Obama, the American president, has said he is happy with what the NSA does. He insists its work is necessary to protect the country from any more 9/11 type attacks. Government officials claim that the NSA is not doing anything unlawful. Yet some people are not so sure. They believe the NSA is using the information it collects to spy on Americans. If true this might be illegal.

On 11th June a senior official from the European Union (EU) made a request. She asked the American government to confirm that it would not use this type of surveillance to spy on people living in EU member countries. ■

GALLINIPPERS ARRIVE

Entomologists – scientists who study insects – in the state of Florida, in the USA, have been predicting a big increase in a certain type of mosquito. Local officials, in one part of the state, say that many people are now reporting that they have seen them.

The mosquitoes are nicknamed 'gallinippers'. They are 20 times the size of normal mosquitoes. Their nickname supposedly comes from the phrase 'nip a gallon'. Even though it's not true it suggests that the mosquitoes 'drink a gallon of blood with one single bite'. The insect's scientific name is *Psorophora ciliata*.

Gallinippers feed on blood from mammals, including humans. Their bites are painful. The large insects can bite through clothes and, unlike other types of mosquito, they are active during the day and night. Gallinippers are found in several parts of the eastern USA. However, each year, their numbers depend on certain conditions.



Gallinipper (*Psorophora ciliata*)

Many types of mosquito lay their eggs in standing, or stagnant, water. This is why people who live where there are many mosquitoes are told to empty tanks and not leave any containers outside where water can collect. However, female gallinippers lay their eggs in low-lying grassy areas, where the soil is damp. They will only hatch if the places where the eggs are laid become flooded. When this happens there can be a sudden increase in their numbers.

In most years Florida is hit by a number of powerful storms called hurricanes. These form in the southern Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. They bring high-speed winds and huge amounts of rain. The storms can damage or destroy buildings and cause very serious flooding. However, once they move across land, they get weaker and gradually disappear. The period between 1st June and 30th November is known as the hurricane season, as this is the time when most of these powerful storms develop.

During last year's hurricane season many parts of Florida flooded. A big tropical storm has recently added more water to these flooded areas. These floods have created the right conditions for gallinippers. So, this year, many more of their eggs have hatched than normal.

In some places local officials have been trying to reduce the number of gallinippers. To do this they have arranged for several flooded areas to be sprayed with a chemical that kills the mosquitoes.

Even though their bites can be painful gallinippers do not carry any harmful viruses. When their larvae hatch they will eat the larvae of other mosquitoes. So one possible advantage of a sudden increase in gallinippers is that there may be fewer other types of mosquito. ■

GREENING EFFECT

Over the last 30 years scientists have noticed an increase in the amount of green leaves, or foliage, in dryer parts of the world. This can be seen in satellite pictures of the Earth's surface. Researchers in Australia now believe that one of the reasons for this is the increase in the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the air.

The researchers studied several warm dry areas of the world. These included the south west of the USA, the Middle East and the Australian Outback. The Outback is the name given to a huge area in the central part of Australia where few people live.

Scientists say that, over the last 200 years, human activity has been increasing the amount of CO₂ in the air. Most of this extra CO₂ comes from the burning of fossil fuels – oil, gas and coal.

Trees and plants need certain substances to survive. They do not 'eat' like animals. Instead, they make their own food by a process called photosynthesis. To do this they need CO₂ and water. Trees and plants also need light energy. They can turn these basic substances into starches and sugars. These are stored in the tree or plant and used when needed.



Satellite picture of Australia (NASA)

Trees and plants get the CO₂ they need from the air around them. It enters through tiny holes in their leaves. Water comes from the soil in which they grow and is absorbed by their roots. The light energy trees and plants need comes from sunlight.

Trees and plants also require tiny amounts of substances called minerals. Two of the most important for healthy growth are the chemicals potassium and nitrogen. These minerals are in the soil. They dissolve in water and are then taken up by roots.

During photosynthesis, if there is extra CO₂ in the atmosphere, leaves can absorb more of it, or lose less water to the air, or do both. The researchers say extra CO₂ in the air in dry areas can cause leaves to reduce the amount of water they lose. If this happens trees and plants will grow more leaves. These extra new leaves, or 'greening' can then be measured by studying satellite pictures.

Between 1982 and 2010 the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere

has increased by around 14%. The researchers made a number of calculations. These were to allow for extra rainfall in the areas they studied during this period, as this would have affected leaf growth. After including these calculations they predicted that a 14% increase in CO₂ between 1982 and 2010 would increase the number of leaves by five to ten percent. They then studied the satellite pictures. These showed an 11 percent increase in greening.

The researchers are sure that the extra CO₂ in the air is one reason why some of the Earth's dryer areas are now becoming 'greener'. They also suspect that this extra CO₂ is increasing the number of plants and trees in certain parts of the world. Yet they admit that more work will need to be done to find out if this is true. ■

FLOODS IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Parts of Central Europe have been badly affected by flooding. Many of the places worst hit were towns and cities close to two of Europe's longest rivers, the Danube and the Elbe.



Floods at Passau, in southern Germany

In southern Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic there was an unusually high amount of rainfall in May and the beginning of June. Experts say that May in this part of Europe has been the wettest for over 100 years. In Austria there was more rain

in two days at the beginning of June that there normally is in two months.

One of the first cities to be threatened by floodwaters was Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. The River Vltava flows through the city. Flood barriers were put up along the sides of the river. Many of the animals from the city's zoo had to be moved to higher ground. Underground stations were shut in the centre of the city, as there was a risk of them filling with water. Bridges over the river were closed. In other parts of the country thousands of people were ordered to leave their homes.

The River Vltava joins the River Elbe. So after the floodwaters passed through Prague the level of the water in the Elbe began to rise. This river flows through the German cities of Dresden, Magdeburg and Hamburg before it reaches the North Sea.



In Magdeburg the River Elbe was five metres (16.5 feet) above its normal height. Over 20,000 people had to leave their homes. Thousands of volunteers helped to fill sandbags, which were used to build up the sides of the river. In other places the water broke through the river's banks. Large areas were flooded. One of Germany's main railway lines had to be closed.

The Danube is Europe's second-longest river (the longest is the River Volga, in Russia). The river flows through, or along the borders of, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Serbia,

Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, and Ukraine. In Romania it empties into the Black Sea. The capital cities Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, and Belgrade are all on the River Danube.

Thousands of soldiers were sent to places along the Danube in southern Germany. There, they helped to build up the sides of the river and clear roads, which had been blocked by landslides.

Many German towns and cities were flooded. One, called Passau, is where two other large rivers join the Danube. Officials in this city said that the river had been at its highest in over 500 years. After the floodwaters had gone down the parts of the city that had been flooded were covered in thick mud.

Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, travelled by helicopter to visit many of the worst affected areas. Hungary's prime minister, Viktor Orban, ordered 11,000 soldiers to help protect towns and villages along the Danube. In Budapest, Hungary's capital city, hotels on an island in the river had to be evacuated.

In Vienna, the capital of Austria, Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia and Budapest the River Danube reached record-breaking levels. Two years ago large parts of the Danube had to be closed to riverboats and cargo ships. This was because there had been very little rainfall and there was not enough water in the river. ■

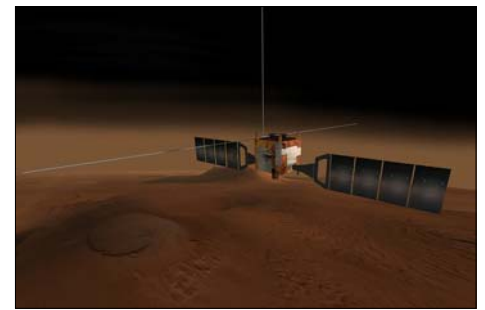
MARS EXPRESS ANNIVERSARY

The European Space Agency (ESA) has been celebrating a special anniversary. Ten years ago, on 2nd June 2003, the ESA's Mars Express spacecraft was launched from the Russian space centre in Kazakhstan.

Six months later it reached Mars and has been going around, or orbiting, the planet ever since.

To mark the spacecraft's tenth anniversary the ESA has released a special Mars atlas, or set of maps. These cover about 95% of the planet's surface. The maps have been made from the information that has been collected by Mars Express. Yet they are not like ordinary maps, which just show mountains, hills and valleys.

Some of the equipment on the spacecraft is able to record different minerals on Mars. It is able to do this by studying, or analysing, the sunlight that is reflected off the surface of the planet. So the atlas is really a set of 'mineral maps'.



Artist's impression of Mars Express (ESA)

ESA scientists say these mineral maps help to explain how Mars has changed since it was formed about 4.6 billion years ago. For instance, certain minerals in parts of ancient craters suggest there was liquid water on Mars during its first few hundred million years. Other maps tell a different story. Some of the minerals in the volcanic lava on the surface give clues about the temperature and pressure inside the planet. This information dates back 3.7 billion years to when Mars was volcanically active.

Using radar equipment Mars Express has also studied Mars' polar regions. At its south pole it discovered a huge amount of ice. If all

of this ice melted the whole planet would be covered in water 11 metres (36 feet) deep.

So far it has not been possible to find out if there were ever any forms of life on Mars. If there was life on the planet the Mars Express maps show the places where signs, or evidence, of it are most likely to be found. This means the maps will be useful for future space missions to Mars.

Mars has two small moons called Phobos and Deimos. Both orbit close to the planet. Mars Express has gathered information about these moons. It has also studied Mars' atmosphere.

Mars Express' one failure was Beagle 2. This was a small space probe, or lander, which it carried to Mars. Beagle 2 was built in the UK. The plan was for the lander to

separate from Mars Express just after it reached Mars. Beagle 2 would then land on the surface of the planet. Yet soon after the planned separation all contact with the lander was lost. It's thought that Beagle 2 must have crash-landed.

Next December Mars Express will fly very close to Phobos. It will then direct all its instruments on a comet called Siding Spring. This comet is expected to fly past Mars at the end of 2014. Some months ago it was thought that Siding Spring might crash into Mars. However, it's now expected to miss the planet, but only by a few thousand kilometres. ▣

HERO DOG RETURNS

On 8th June a dog, called Kabang, arrived back in the Philippines. The dog had been in the USA for eight months, where it received special medical treatment. A large crowd had gathered at the airport in Manila, the country's capital city, to greet the two-year-old dog.

Kabang's owners live in a city called Zamboanga, in the south of the country. Kabang means 'two colours' or 'spotty' in the local language. In 2011 the owners' young daughter and their niece were crossing a busy road. The dog suddenly ran out into the street and jumped at a speeding motorcycle. The owners say the dog did this deliberately to stop the motorcycle hitting the two young girls. They believe that Kabang saved the girls from being badly injured or even killed.

The two girls and the motorcycle rider were not hurt in the accident. But Kabang's face was badly damaged. The dog's upper jaw and nose, or snout, was crushed by the motorcycle's front wheel. One of the

owners managed to pull the dog free but it then ran off. About two weeks later Kabang came back to the family home.

Because of the dog's bad injuries many people suggested that it should be put down, or humanely killed. Yet by this time many people in the Philippines had heard about the 'hero' dog. This was because newspaper reporters had written about what had happened.



Kabang

The owners decided to keep Kabang. The dog had problems eating but otherwise had a normal life. It even became pregnant. However, Kabang's wounds eventually became infected. The owners gave it some medicine, yet they did not have enough money for any special treatment.

A woman in the USA read about Kabang on the internet. She decided to do something. With help from an animal welfare organisation she managed to raise around US\$27,000 (£17,300). People from 47 different countries agreed to donate money. The amount was enough to pay for special medical treatment at a university animal hospital, in the USA.

Soon after the dog arrived at the animal hospital doctors discovered that it was suffering from several diseases. After curing these they hoped to make a false, or **prosthetic**, snout for Kabang. Yet this was not possible. Instead they took some skin from the dog's neck, cheeks and head to cover up the wounded

NEWSCAST

WALRUS LODGER — A person living in the UK has placed an advertisement on a website. They are offering a rent-free room in their large house. However, anyone wishing to live there will have to wear a specially made walrus costume for two hours every day. For these two hours they must make only walrus-like sounds and not speak. During this time the owner may throw pieces of fish at them. The homeowner explains that they spent three years living on a remote island in Alaska, in the USA. There they became friends with a walrus named Gregory. It was one of their best ever friendships. Having retired they now want to make friends with another walrus. It is not known if the advert is serious or a joke.



parts of its face. Kabang can now chew using its back teeth and still has a sense of smell.

After arriving at Manila airport Kabang was taken to a large shopping centre. There the dog was greeted by hundreds of people. Later Kabang went for a walk in a park, which is popular with dog owners. On 9th June the dog finally arrived back in Zamboanga. There, local officials organised a special parade to welcome Kabang back to the city. ■

SMOKING BANS IN RUSSIA

A new smoking ban came into effect in Russia on 1st June. Most countries introduced smoking bans many years ago. Russia, where smoking is still very popular, is one of the last countries to do so.

It is estimated that each year about 400,000 people in Russia die from illnesses that are related to smoking. Around 60% of Russian men and 22% of women smoke. This means of all the people in the country roughly 40% are smokers. In France smokers make up about 30% of population. In the USA the figure is 27%.

Apart from China, Russia is believed to have the most smokers in the world. China introduced a smoking ban in public places such as restaurants, museums, hotels, parks, and on buses and trains, two years ago.

Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, does not smoke. He has said that he is worried about the size of the country's population. In 1991 there were 149 million people living in Russia. Yet ten years later, in 2011, the population had fallen to 142 million. Mr Putin says he wants

younger Russians to lead healthier lives. He has also tried to encourage families to have more children.

In Russia people drink more alcohol than in any other country. Medical experts say that smoking and drinking too much alcohol can have an effect on life expectancy. This is the average number of years people live for. At 69 years, life expectancy for men in Russia is lower than in many other countries. In the USA it is 79 and in France 82. Many believe that one of the main reasons why so many Russians die at an earlier age is because they smoke.

President Putin signed the smoking ban law last February. Then smoking in schools, museums and hospitals as well as on trains and buses was banned. The law included other bans. These would start on 1st June. From this date people would no longer be able to smoke in universities, government buildings, sports halls and within 15 metres (50 feet) of entrances to airports and train, bus and underground stations. The 1st June ban also includes smoking on the stairs, or stairwells, of blocks of flats, beaches and playgrounds.

The new law also restricts where cigarettes can be sold. From February all tobacco advertising was banned in newspapers and magazines and on television and the internet.

Further bans will be introduced next year. Then people will not be able to smoke in cafés, restaurants, hotels, shops, bars, and markets as well as on railway station platforms and long-distance trains. Furthermore shop owners will not be allowed to display cigarettes.

Many people think the new smoking bans will only be successful if the police make sure that people

obey them. Also, when compared with other countries, cigarettes in Russia are cheap to buy. The government has already said it plans to increase the price of cigarettes.

Those who break the law will probably be fined. Yet these fines will not be approved by the Russian parliament, or Duma, until next month. They are expected to be around 1,500 roubles (£30) for smoking in public places. However, fines for smoking on planes or advertising cigarettes will be much higher. Police chiefs say that, at first, people who smoke where it is banned will be warned not to do it again. ■

SHIRT-SLEEVES SUMMIT

Barack Obama, the president of the USA, and the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, took part in a special meeting, or summit, on 8th and 9th June. Mr Obama and Mr Xi are the world's two most powerful leaders. This was the first time they had met since Mr Xi was officially appointed as the new president of China three months ago.



Barack Obama, president of the USA, and Xi Jinping, president of China, at Sunnylands

Over the two days the two leaders spent eight hours talking with each other. Normally many advisors also attend these types of meetings. However, it was reported that they spent 50 minutes together without their advisers. During this time,

except for their [translators](#), the two men were alone.

The summit was held at a house called Sunnylands. This is an estate that includes a large area of land, several lakes and a golf course. A wealthy American family built Sunnylands. Nowadays American presidents sometimes use it as a place to meet important visitors.

The two men talked about several different things. These included North Korea and what's become known as 'cyber-spying' or 'cyber-attacks'.

Members of one family have ruled North Korea for 65 years. It is a very secretive country. Over the last ten years North Korea is known to have developed nuclear weapons. The North Korean leaders claim that they need these weapons to defend their country from an American attack. They are also suspicious of South Korea, as it works closely with the USA.

The USA and many other countries, such as South Korea and Japan, are worried about North Korea. They fear that it might use one of its nuclear weapons against them. Over the last six years several countries, including the USA, have tried to persuade North Korea to abandon, or give up, its nuclear plans.

China has helped North Korea in the past. Today much of the oil that the country needs comes from China. Many people believe that China is the only country that can stop North Korea developing more nuclear weapons. During the summit talks Mr Obama and Mr Xi agreed that North Korea must give up its nuclear weapons and not produce any more.

In recent years several companies in the USA have accused China of cyber-attacks. This is when computer hackers use the internet

to steal valuable information from companies' computers. The American companies claim that hackers from China frequently try to steal their designs and important business information. Senior commanders in the USA also believe that Chinese hackers have managed to access secret military information. This, they say, includes details of the designs of some American warplanes.

Mr Xi said he disagreed with all forms of cyber-spying. He said he did not want it to be a reason for China and America to stop talking to each other in future.

During the summit all the discussions were very informal. Neither leader wore a jacket or tie. For this reason some people have nicknamed the talks at Sunnylands 'the shirt-sleeves summit'. ■

ANCIENT TEXTS AND 'COOLING' VOLCANOES

An international team of researchers has managed to link past volcanic eruptions with very cold weather in Ireland. To do this they used ancient Irish annals, or texts, and ice cores taken from Greenland.



Pages from one of the Irish annals

Annals are a type of yearly record. They list different events that happen on each day of the year. Ireland has some of the oldest annals in the world. Many were written by monks who lived in monasteries in

different parts of the country. The oldest ones date back to 431 CE. At first annals were lists of special religious days throughout the year. Yet later daily events were added as well as the [obituaries](#) of abbots, or the heads of the monasteries.



Hekla volcano in Iceland

Ice cores can be used to date events, such as volcanic eruptions, which happened a long time ago. To get an ice core scientists drill long hollow pipes into thick ice. When these pipes are pulled back up, they contain long tube-shaped pieces of ice from deep under the surface.

Scientists can work out many things from studying ice cores. For example, air bubbles trapped in the ice contain carbon dioxide. The deeper the ice the older it is. So bubbles from ice formed hundreds of thousands of years ago show how much carbon dioxide was in the air at that time.

When there is a large volcanic eruption enormous amounts of ash are thrown high into the air. This can spread over a wide area before it eventually falls to the ground. In ice cores this shows up as a thin layer of ash. Scientists are able to calculate when layers of ash in ice cores were on the surface. From this they can work out the rough date when these volcanic eruptions occurred.

Scientists know that large volcanic eruptions can have a cooling effect on temperatures in different parts of the world. This happens

because the ash and dust in the atmosphere can block or reflect some of the sunlight. For example, in 1991 a large volcano in the Philippines, called Mount Pinatubo, erupted. This was a major eruption. Scientists later calculated that it cooled the Earth's average temperature by 0.5°C.

The researchers studied Irish annals that cover a period from 431 CE to 1649, or about 1,200 years. For example, there was a big eruption of the Hekla volcano in Iceland, in 1104. At this time one of the Irish annals says 'heavy snow fell this year and many cows and sheep died'. In other years the monks wrote about rivers and lakes being frozen over.

The ice cores used by the researchers came from Greenland. Over this 1,200-year period the cores showed that there had been 48 volcanic eruptions. The researchers were able to link 38 of these to descriptions of unusually cold weather in the Irish annals.

The researchers say that their work shows how huge volcanic eruptions can affect the climate. It can also be used to predict what may happen when a future large eruption occurs in a place such as Iceland. ■

MARY ROSE MUSEUM

The new Mary Rose museum opened, in the city of Portsmouth, in the UK, on 31st May. The museum contains the wooden remains of an English navy ship, called the Mary Rose, which sank over 450 years ago.

The Mary Rose was built in Portsmouth. The ship was launched in 1511. At this time Henry the Eighth (1491 – 1547) was king of England. His family name was Tudor. The period of English history that

covers Henry's reign and the reigns of his father, Henry the Seventh, his son, Edward the Sixth, and his two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, is known as 'the Tudors'. The Mary Rose is therefore often described as a Tudor warship.



New Mary Rose museum

At that time the Mary Rose was one of the biggest warships ever built. Experts believe that the ship was made from the wood of about 600 large trees. It was also one of the first warships to carry heavy guns, or cannons, which were made out of iron and bronze. In times of war there would have been about 450 sailors and soldiers on board the ship.

During Henry the Eighth's reign the English fought a number of wars against France. In 1545 a French invasion force of around 130 ships crossed the English Channel. About 80 English ships met the French invasion force not far from Portsmouth. They included the Mary Rose.

During the sea battle that followed the Mary Rose suddenly sank. No one knows why this happened. The ship was making a turn when it sank. One idea is that, just as it was turning, there was a powerful gust of wind. As the ship leaned over seawater flooded into the open gun ports. These are holes in the sides of wooden navy ships through which large guns fired. The ship was probably overloaded. So the

gun ports might have been too close to the level of the sea. When making a turn like this the ship's gun ports should have been closed.

Only 35 of those on board the ship survived. Henry the Eighth watched the battle from a nearby castle. He therefore saw the Mary Rose sink. Even though the English lost one of their best and biggest ships they won the sea battle and the French invasion failed.

In 1836 several fishermen discovered the wreck of the Mary Rose by accident. Their nets had become caught on some of the ship's timbers. Later divers managed to bring a few guns and other items to the surface. Yet the exact location of the wreck was soon forgotten.

The wreck was rediscovered in 1971. Then a decision was made to recover what was left of the ship. About one-third of the wooden hull remained. This was buried in mud. The mud contained thousands of items that were on the ship, as well as the bones of many of those who died.



Painting of the Mary Rose

Work on the wreck took many years. All the mud had to be carefully removed and the items within it recovered. Eventually, the remains of the hull were brought up to the surface supported by a specially built steel frame in 1982.

The hull and all the items found on the wreck had been in seawater for

hundreds of years. If they had dried out quickly the wooden parts would have rotted away. So everything had to be kept wet. A temporary Mary Rose museum was opened in Portsmouth in 1984. The hull, which was continually sprayed with water, was in a special room. It could only be seen through glass windows.

The temporary museum was closed in 2009, so the new one could be built. Inside the new museum are the wooden hull and around 6,000 of the 19,000 items that were found on the shipwreck. All have been carefully preserved. As well as large metal cannons and other weapons such as bows and arrows many personal items are displayed. They include wooden games, musical instruments, combs, plates and leather shoes. Historians describe a visit to the new museum as being like entering a 'Tudor [time capsule](#)'. ▣

OARFISH FILMED

Oarfish are very rarely seen. They live deep in the world's oceans. Scientists from a university in the USA have just released several video films of these unusual sea creatures. The films are believed to be the first of oarfish swimming in their natural habitat.

Not much is known about oarfish. Scientists have only been able to study those that have died and then been washed up on the shore. They have a very long and thin ribbon-like body, which is a silvery blue-grey colour. All the way along their bodies is a pink or red coloured dorsal fin.

Occasionally oarfish have been filmed swimming close to the surface or near the coast. However, when they do this it means that the oarfish are sick and are about to die.

Traditionally, in some countries like Japan finding a dead oarfish was thought to be bad luck. This was because they were believed to be a sign that something bad was about to happen. This could be an earthquake, or tsunami. Tsunamis are giant waves that are caused by some undersea earthquakes. Ancient legends and stories about huge sea serpents may have come from sailors seeing oarfish swimming near the surface.

Dead oarfish of around eight metres (26 feet) in length have been found. Yet some people have reported seeing ones that are much longer. These unusual creatures are believed to live at depths of between 200 metres (656 feet) and 1,000 metres (3,300 feet).

Oarfish are the world's largest bony fish. Bony fish are all fish except sharks, skates and rays. These three types of fish have skeletons that are made of [cartilage](#) and not bone. Oarfish feed on tiny marine creatures called zooplankton.



Oarfish filmed by a remotely operated vehicle

Oarfish are believed to live in warmer tropical waters. Yet two years ago a 3.7-metre (12 foot) long dead oarfish was found on a beach in Sweden. In this part of the world the seas are much colder.

The video films of the oarfish swimming in their natural habitat were taken in the Gulf of Mexico. The most recent was filmed in 2011. The scientists have been able to

make use of cameras on remotely operated vehicles (ROVs). These belong to an oil and gas company, which uses them to search for oil and gas fields under the seabed. ROVs can spend a long time underwater. They can also reach depths where it is not possible for divers to go.



Dead oarfish

The oarfish that were filmed did not seem to be scared of the ROVs. The scientists say this may suggest that they have no predators, or are never attacked by other sea creatures. ▣

BILDERBERG GROUP MEETING

This year's Bilderberg Group meeting took place between 6th and 9th June. It was held at the Grove Hotel close to Watford, a town not far from London, the capital of the UK. The Bilderberg Group holds a large meeting every year. Traditionally, the names of the people invited to its annual meetings and what they talk about was kept secret. For this reason some people are suspicious of the organisation.

A few political and business leaders from Western Europe set up the Bilderberg Group in 1954. At that time they were worried that the countries of Western Europe and North America (or the USA and Canada) were beginning to distrust each other. They believed there should be more cooperation be-

tween the nations in these two parts of the world.

Today this idea, or [philosophy](#), of cooperation between these countries is often called Atlanticism. This name comes from the word Atlantic, the ocean that separates North America and Western Europe. The group is named after the Bilderberg Hotel, in the Netherlands. This is where its first meeting was held in 1954.

Nowadays between 120 and 140 people attend the Bilderberg Group's annual meeting. A small number of people, who run the group, decide who to invite. Those who are invited are mainly senior politicians, government advisers and important business, banking and military leaders from Europe and North America. The guest list often includes members of royal families. For example, Prince Charles, the heir to the UK throne, Queen Sofia

of Spain, Queen Beatrix, the former monarch of the Netherlands, are all known to have attended Bilderberg Group meetings.



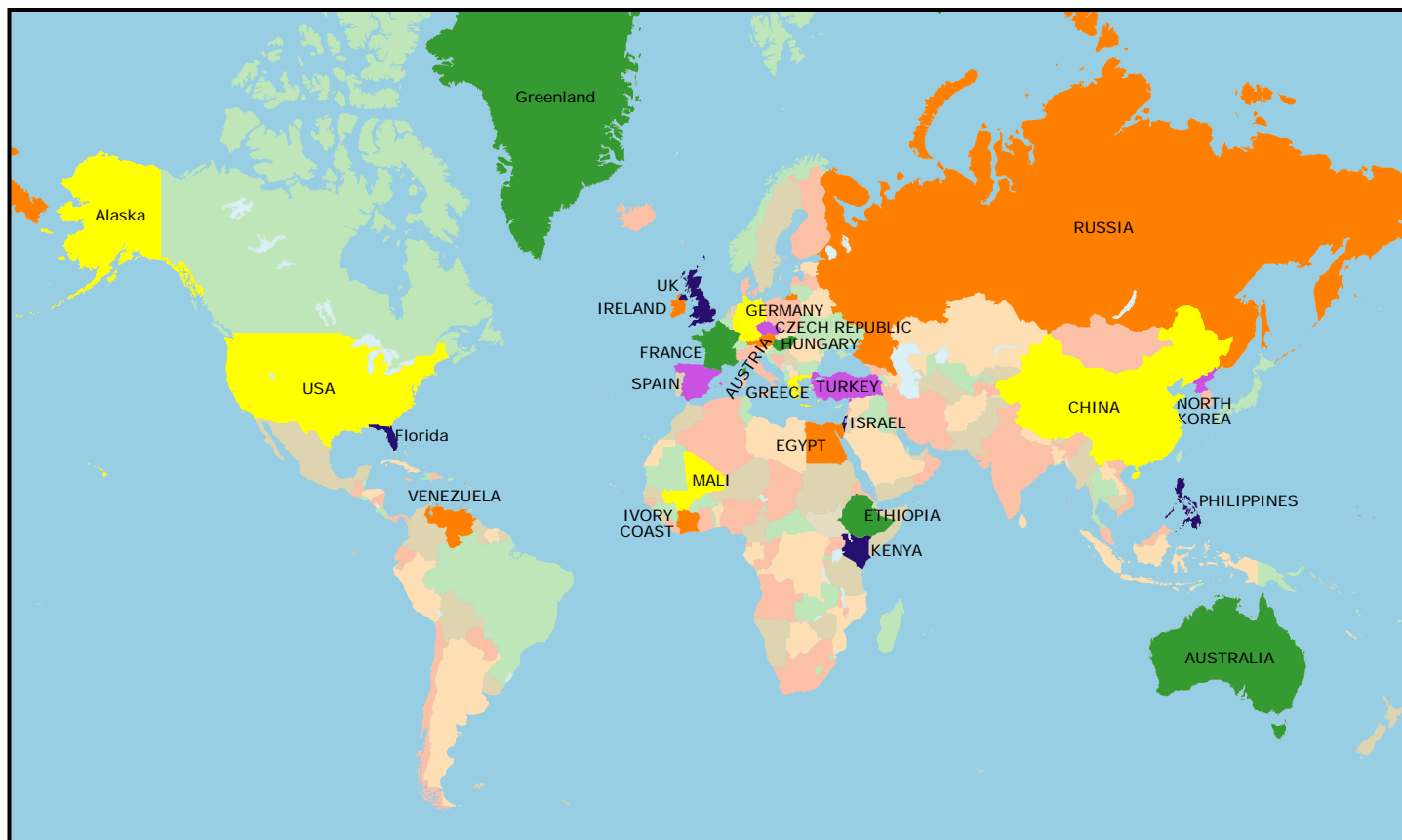
Grove Hotel, in the UK, where the Bilderberg Group meeting was held

In the past the group's organisers have talked about their meetings. They explained that they are a place where world leaders and important people can have informal conversations and discussions. No recordings are made of the talks. The organisers claim that this means the guests are able to say what they really think.

These meetings, the organisers explain, can help to solve some of the world's problems. No interviews are given to the [media](#) about what is discussed at Bilderberg meetings.

However, as the Bilderberg Group keeps its meetings secret, it has led to many [conspiracy](#) theories. When someone comes up with a conspiracy theory, he or she tries to [convince](#) others that a current or historical event is part of a secret plan. One conspiracy theory about the Bilderberg Group says it's organised by very wealthy bankers who want to gain power and 'take over the world'. Another says it is a secret organisation that makes all the important decisions about how many countries are governed.

This year a list of the topics to be discussed at the meeting were put on the Bilderberg Group's website. They included 'Can the economies



of the USA and Europe grow more quickly and create more jobs?’ ‘The impact of online education’ and ‘How data collected by computers is changing almost everything’. ■

‘LIVING FOSSIL’ FROG

The Hula painted frog has just been **classified** as a ‘living fossil’. This type of frog, which is found only in Israel, is very rare. Almost 20 years ago the Hula painted frog was officially declared to be extinct. This was because none had been seen since 1950. Yet two years ago one of the frogs was found. Researchers, using modern scientific methods, have therefore been able to study the Hula painted frog for the first time.

Living things are known to evolve, or change, over long periods of time. They do this to suit or adapt to changes in their environment, or surroundings. Many have changed so much that today’s species are very different from their ancient ancestors.

The researchers were surprised. They discovered that the Hula painted frog is not related to the frogs that live on the Earth today. Instead its ancestors are a type of ancient frog, which lived long ago. Nowadays these types of frogs are known only from fossils. Around one million years ago these frogs were common in Europe. The last of them were thought to have died out about 15,000 years ago. The Hula painted frog has therefore not changed, or evolved, for thousands of years. This is why the researchers say it is a living fossil.

Charles Darwin (1809 – 1882) invented the name living fossil. He was a scientist from the UK who first wrote about evolution in his famous book *On the Origin of Species*. His

theory is often described as the ‘survival of the fittest’. Here the word ‘fittest’ does not mean the strongest or the one that has the most energy. It describes the animal or plant that is best suited to competing with others, or is best adapted to the place in which it lives. Darwin’s theory says that the ‘fittest’ animal or plant will have the best chance of surviving.

Darwin used the name living fossil to describe small freshwater fish that had not evolved much over millions of years. He believed that this was because the place and surroundings in which it lived had not altered. This, Darwin said, meant that the fish had no need to change or adapt to survive.



Hula painted frog

Adult Hula painted frogs are only around 40 millimetres (1.6 inches) long. Their underside, or belly, is black and covered in white spots. The Hula painted frog has a round tongue that, unlike modern day frogs, is not used to catch insects.

Hula painted frogs were first recorded in Israel in the 1940s. A few of them were found in a place called the Hula Valley, from which the frogs get their name. This valley, which is in the north of the country, contained a lake and marshland. But at the end of the 1950s the valley’s lake and marshland were drained. This was done to make it a better place to grow crops. The remaining water became polluted with fertilizers. After this the frogs seem to disappear.

In 1996, as none had been seen for such a long time, it was declared that the Hula painted frog had died out. Then one was found in 2011. Over the last two years there have been 13 other sightings of the frogs.

In recent years parts of the Hula Valley have become a nature reserve. The water is less polluted and the marshland is returning. There are also plans to flood parts of the valley. It’s hoped that these changes will mean the numbers of these ancient living fossils will now begin to increase. ■

BLUE NILE DAM

Ethiopia has begun to divert, or alter, the course of the river known as the Blue Nile. This is so building work can continue on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. When completed it will be the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa. However, the building of the dam has angered the governments of Sudan and Egypt. They fear it will reduce the amount of water in the parts of the River Nile that flow through their countries.

The River Nile is said to be the longest river in the world. It has two main sources. These are called the White Nile and the Blue Nile. These two rivers meet at Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. The Nile then flows for hundreds of kilometres through Sudan and Egypt before reaching the Mediterranean Sea.

In Sudan and Egypt the Nile is the main source of water. Around 90% of all the water used in Egypt comes from the river.

Work on the large dam began two years ago. It is about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Ethiopia’s border with Sudan. When the dam is

finished it will create a huge reservoir, or man-made lake. The amount of electricity it will produce will be the same as six nuclear power stations. Building work is due to be completed in 2017.



In the past the amount of water in the Nile would change throughout the year. Each year the river would flood in Egypt. This was important, as the floodwaters would cover the fields on either side of the river with silt. The silt, or river mud, was like a natural fertilizer. From February until May the level of the water in the river would be much lower. However, if the floods did not arrive or went on for too long food crops might fail or be destroyed.

The Nile's yearly flood stopped when the Aswan Dam was built in Egypt. This was completed in 1970. The dam meant that the river's annual floodwaters could now be controlled.

The Nile flooding in summer was caused by the rainy season in Ethiopia. At this time of year heavy

rain falls in the mountainous part of Ethiopia. This is where the Blue Nile starts. Ethiopian officials claim that of all the water in the River Nile about 85% comes from Ethiopia.

The water from the rainy season in Ethiopia is now stored in the reservoir behind the Aswan Dam. This extra water is then released during the drier months. Therefore, today, the amount of water in the Nile, as it flows through Egypt, is roughly the same throughout the year.

A group, or committee, of ten officials from Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia was set up just over a year ago. They have been studying what impact the new dam will have on the River Nile. Their report is yet to be finished. Officials in Ethiopia insist that the dam will not affect the river in Sudan and Egypt.

On 3rd June several senior Egyptian politicians, including Mohamed Morsi, the country's president, attended a meeting. During it they talked about the new dam in Ethiopia. However, they were unaware that their discussion was being broadcast live on Egyptian television. One said the dam should be destroyed. Another suggested spreading a false rumour that Egypt was planning an air attack on the dam.

Mr Morsi did not agree with what the others said. But the live broadcast was very embarrassing for Egypt. Later an Egyptian government official apologised to Ethiopia for what was said. ■

THINK.EAT.SAVE.

In 1972 the United Nations (UN) decided that 5th June would be known as World Environment Day. On this day each year people would be reminded about the importance

of doing things that help to protect the environment.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) runs World Environment Day. This organisation has its headquarters in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. Each year the UNEP decides on a theme for World Environment Day. This year's theme is 'Think.Eat.Save.'

Think.Eat.Save. is a campaign to try to reduce the amount of food that is wasted every year. Another part of the UN called the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that every year about one-third of all the food produced in the world is wasted or lost. UNEP says that while all this food is being wasted around 20,000 children under the age of five die from hunger every day. Furthermore one in seven people in the world go to sleep at night without having had enough to eat during the day.



Food is wasted in many different ways. Food crops can be left unpicked or not harvested. Factories or places where food is packed often waste large amounts. Shops and supermarkets throw away some of the food they do not sell. Restaurants and hotels discard food that has not been eaten. In many countries it is not unusual for people to buy too much food. Then, when this extra food is too old, it is thrown away.

The UNEP explains that when food is wasted it can affect the environment. It uses an example of cows. The UNEP says it takes 1,000 litres of water to make one litre of milk.

NewsCAST

SURPRISE PARCEL — A town in Spain has a new scheme to make dog owners clean up. Officials were angry about the amount of dog mess in the streets. A small team of people now walk around the town. If they see a dog making a mess they speak to its owner. However, they do not complain. Instead they ask polite questions about the dog. Owners have to register their pets. Town officials keep this register. It is therefore easy to use the information about the dog to work out the owner's address. Their dog's mess is then collected and delivered to the owner's house in a cardboard box marked 'lost property'. Officials say the new scheme has reduced the amount of dog mess on the streets by 70%.

What's more around 16,000 litres of water are needed to make the cattle food a cow has to eat to produce enough meat for one hamburger. So, the UNEP argues, throwing one litre of milk or one hamburger away is a huge waste of water.

Food crops and making food uses around 25% of all the habitable areas, or places where people can live, on the planet. Growing crops and making food takes about 70% of all the freshwater that is used in the world.

Today there are around seven billion people living on the Earth. By 2050 this number is expected to increase to about nine billion. The UNEP says reducing food waste is one way to make sure that all these extra people have enough to eat.

As part of its Think.Eat.Save campaign the UNEP has recommended a number of ways to

reduce the amount of food that people waste. It describes this as 'reducing your foodprint'. Some suggestions are: buying locally grown food, only buying what you need, growing your own vegetables, inventing new [recipes](#) for leftover food, and ordering less in restaurants as well as taking home anything that is not eaten. ▣

FRENCH PRESIDENT AWARDED PEACE PRIZE

On 5th June a special ceremony was held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the capital of France. The ceremony was organised to officially award the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize to the French president, François Hollande.

UNESCO is the United Nations (UN) Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It works to promote peace and to reduce inequality and poverty throughout the world. UNESCO does this by setting up education, science, communication, and social and cultural projects in less wealthy countries.

The Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize is named after a former president of Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire). Ivory Coast used to be a French colony. It became an independent country in 1960. Houphouët-Boigny (1905 – 1993) was its first president. Under his leadership the country [prospered](#). The coffee and cocoa industries were started and Ivory Coast developed a successful economy. Today the country is one of the world's largest producers of cocoa beans, which are used to make chocolate.

When Ivory Coast was still a colony Houphouët-Boigny was elected to the French parliament. After he became the president

of Ivory Coast he made sure that France and his country continued to work together. He was Africa's longest serving leader when he died in 1993. Houphouët-Boigny often talked about the importance of peace. In 1989 he created an award to be given to those 'who search for peace'. He arranged for the award to be [sponsored](#) by UNESCO.

UNESCO said that Mr Hollande had been given the prize because of what had recently happened in Mali. This country is also a former French colony. In 2012 several militant groups took control of the northern part of Mali. At the beginning of this year one of the groups attacked several towns near Bamako, Mali's capital city, in the south of the country. The leaders of this group wanted Mali to become an Islamic state in which everyone would have to follow very strict religious laws.



François Hollande, President of France

Mali's leader, President Traoré, asked France for help. Mr Hollande quickly decided to send several thousand specially trained French troops to Mali. He said that if he had not done this, the militant groups would have seized control of the whole country.

Having rescued the capital city the French troops, together with Malian soldiers, moved to the north of the country. Other nearby African countries such as Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Guinea agreed to help.

Each sent some of their soldiers to Mali. The leaders of these countries agreed to do this because they feared that the Islamic militant groups might cause similar problems in their countries.

Over the next few weeks the militant groups in the northern part of Mali were defeated. French troops have now started to withdraw from the country.

A group of specially selected people decide on the winner of the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Prize. One of them is Joaquim Chissano. He is a former president of Mozambique. Mr Chissano said that the French president's decision to send troops to Mali had helped many African countries.

As part of the ceremony Mr Hollande made a speech. He said it might seem strange that a peace prize is given to someone who decided to become involved in a war. Yet he explained that he made the decision to send troops to Mali to try to bring peace to this part of Africa.

Not everyone was happy about the French president being awarded the prize. Some said that the problems in Mali were likely to last for a long time.

The Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize is not awarded every year. Previous winners include Nelson Mandela, from South Africa, and Jimmy Carter, a former president of the USA. ■

BLACKBIRDS' BODY CLOCKS

Researchers from Germany and the UK have completed a number of experiments with blackbirds. The results seem to show that the 'body clocks' of blackbirds living in the city and those that live in the countryside are different.

Most plants and animals, including humans, have a 'body clock'. This is also known as the circadian clock or circadian **rhythms**. This 'clock' controls and regulates different body functions in a 24-hour cycle.



Blackbird

In humans the body clock is responsible for the feeling called jet lag. Many people suffer from this after a long flight between time zones. It occurs because the body clock cannot adjust immediately to the new time. Instead, it may take several hours or days to get used to it. People suffering from jet lag often feel sleepy at unusual times. This is because their body clock does not fit the day-night rhythm of the place to which they have travelled.

Although the amount of daylight may affect our body clocks, it does not control them. Experiments have been carried out on people kept in permanent light or dark. These show that the body clock continues to work in its 24-hour cycle, even when the light does not change.

The researchers captured a number of blackbirds. Some were caught in the city of Munich, in southern Germany. The others came from a nearby forest. Small radio transmitters were fitted to each bird. They were then released in the same places in which they were caught. The transmitters recorded the birds' activity for the next three weeks.

The recordings showed that the forest birds woke up when the sun

rose. Yet, the city birds were active about 30 minutes earlier. Also, in the evening, the city birds went to sleep later. This meant, in total, the city birds' day was roughly 40 minutes longer.

The researchers then recaptured all the blackbirds. For the next ten days they were kept in a special soundproof cage or enclosure. They could not hear anything and there was just a dim light. So the blackbirds did not know if it was day or night. While in the cage the birds' activity was recorded. This showed that the city blackbirds' body clocks' ran faster than the ones from the forest. The forest birds took 50 minutes longer than the city ones to complete their 24-hour cycle of activity.

So the reason why city blackbirds are active for longer is that their body clocks have changed. It's possible, the researchers say, that the noise and lights in the city are the cause of the change. If so the researchers wonder if living in a city could have a similar effect on the body clocks of humans and other animals. They say more work will need to be done to find out if this is true. ■

Newsademic.com

Editor: Rebecca Watson

Acknowledgements:

News story photographs by gettyimages

For further details about Newsademic and subscription prices visit www.newsademic.com

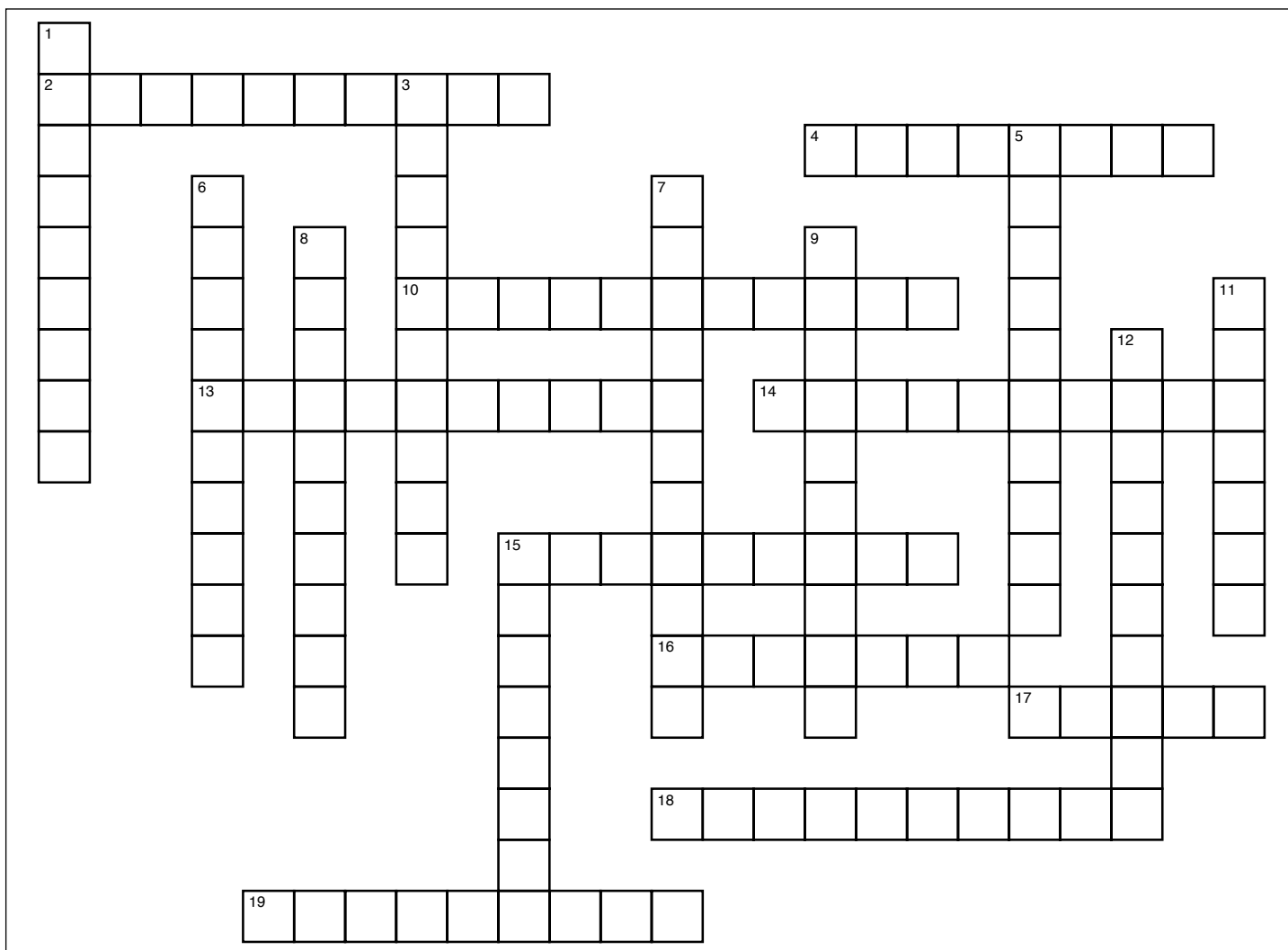
SCHOOL SUBSCRIBERS MAY
PHOTOCOPY ANY PART OF THIS
NEWSPAPER FOR USE WITHIN
THEIR SCHOOL ONLY.

© Newsademic 2013

ISSUE 199

GLOSSARY PUZZLE

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 2 Noun** The study of the nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.
- 4 Noun** A person who makes religious speeches
- 10 Noun** A container holding articles and documents from a current age to be discovered at some future time
- 13 Noun (Plural)** People who have strong views and take severe actions
- 14 Noun** A secret plot by a group of people
- 15 Noun** A substance similar to bone that surrounds the joints
- 16 Noun (Plural)** Instructions for making things, especially cooking or preparing foods
- 17 Noun** Newspapers, magazines, radio broadcasts, television shows and the internet considered as a group
- 18 Noun (Plural)** Powerful tractors with large blades at the front for moving rocks or earth
- 19 Verb** Gained wealth and success

Down

- 1 Verb** Supported a person or organisation by giving money
- 3 Adjective** Describes an artificial body part, such as an arm or leg which replaces a missing part
- 5 Verb** Arranged into groups according to type
- 6 Adjective** To do with business or trade
- 7 Noun (Plural)** People whose job it is to change spoken or written words into another language
- 8 Noun (Plural)** Announcements of people's deaths and a short description of their lives
- 9 Adjective** Describes someone who runs a country or company by taking all the decisions without consulting others
- 11 Noun (Plural)** Things, or functions, that repeatedly happen at regular intervals
- 12 Noun (Plural)** Barriers to prevent access
- 15 Verb** To make someone realise or understand that something is correct or true

Issue 199

GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

T I M E C A P S U L E V L A N E R C
 R H B C L A S S I F I E D G P Y Q I
 A T Z I O F X T I G D N A W N V S T
 N K D D D N C C F O U U J Z G W X A
 S X E L Y G S E D A C I R R A B B R
 L T R A K O Y P P R E C I P E S U C
 A X E I C P P F I D K J S C R N L O
 T W P C A M T E L R N F C A V V L T
 O V S R C Q S C T O A O C R M P D U
 R I O E Q I A O B C N C M T A H O A
 S M R M T I T I E V V E Y I Y I Z R
 J Z P M J T T E I S D K E L A L E R
 D K F O C U W N H I W E C A H O R H
 B I P C A B C G A T E R W G F S S Y
 I S F R M E I K G E S A O E P O B T
 M A I U R C J D D E R O S N O P S H
 Z E S G G B T R W Q D R R F Q H V M
 S T S I M E R T X E T I G P G Y V S

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

Demics are tokens that Individual and Family Subscribers can earn. They are awarded for answering this Glossary Puzzle and/or the Daily News question – accessible by logged in users – correctly. Demics earned can be used by Family and Individual Subscribers in the Newsademic online store.

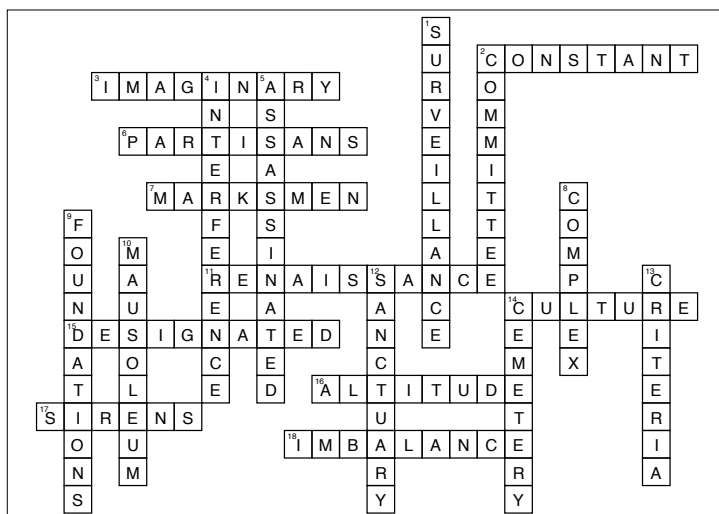


GET EXTRA DEMICS*

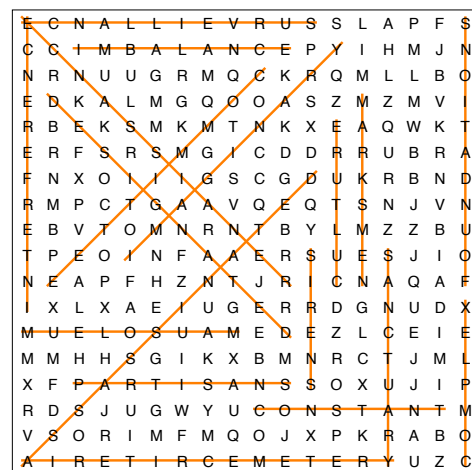
* Only applies to those who have purchased a Newsademic Individual or Family Subscription

If you wish to earn additional Demics log in to www.newsademic.com, go to the Prize Competitions area and submit the missing word. Puzzle entries must be submitted by 10 pm on 26th June 2013 (GMT/UTC).*

MISSING WORD ANSWER =



ISSUE 198 ANSWERS



A L T I T U D E